

Message Text

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11

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 COME-00 PER-05 OPR-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19

IO-15 SY-10 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USSS-00 DRC-01 /146 W

----- 010067

R 040620Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3125

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS SOCI CASC UG US

SUBJECT: REPORTED ATTACKS ON AMERICAN TOURISTS BY UGANDANS

1. EMBASSY COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT LOU BETTS HAS LEARNED OF TWO SEPARATE INCIDENTS OCCURRING SUNDAY, SEPT 30, IN WHICH THREE VISITING BLACK AMERICANS WERE PHYSICALLY ASSAULTED BY UGANDANS. ALL THREE ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LEFT UGANDA; NONE CAME TO THE EMBASSY TO REPORT THE INCIDENTS.

2. BETTS WAS TOLD ABOUT THE FIRST INCIDENT BY TWO OF THE ASSAULTED AMERICANS (A MAN AND A WOMAN), AND MRS. APOLLO KIRONDE, WHOM THE AMERICANS WERE VISITING HERE AND WHO WAS ALSO ASSAULTED ALONG WITH THE AMERICANS. THE THREE WERE TAKING A SUNDAY AFTERNOON WALK IN THE MENGHI HILL AREA OF KAMPALA WHEN THEY WERE APPROACHED BY A DRUNKEN UGANDAN SOLDIER WHO ACCUSED THEM, AMONG OTHER THINGS, OF BEING AMERICAN IMPERIALISTS MILKING THE UGANDAN ECONOMY, AND SPIES. THE THREE TRIED TO WALK AWAY BUT THE SOLDIER BEGAN BRAWLING WITH THE AMERICAN MALE, WHICH THEN LED TO HIS

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SHOVING AND SLAPPING THE TWO WOMEN WHEN THEY TRIED TO INTERVENE.

THE THREE ESCAPED BY STOPPING A PASSING AUTOMOBILIST AND LEAPING IN HIS CAR, WITH THE SOLDIER IN UNSUCCESSFUL PURSUIT ON FOOT.

3. THE OTHER INCIDENT WAS REPORTED TO BETTS INDIRECTLY ON THE EVENING OF OCTOBER 1 BY SEVERAL UGANDAN MEMBERS OF THE DRAMA CLUB. ACCORDING TO THEM, AN AMERICAN BLACK WOMAN HAD BEEN ASSAULTED THE PREVIOUS DAY, AND HAD RECEIVED SEVERE BRUISES IN THE HEAD AND STOMACH. THE UGANDA RADIO NEWS ON MONDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 1, REPORTED THAT A WOMAN HAD BEEN ATTACKED IN KAMPALA THE PREVIOUS DAY AND HAD BEEN INJURED IN THE HEAD AND STOMACH, BUT THE NATIONALITY OF THE WOMAN WAS NOT DISCLOSED. BETTS BELIEVES THAT THE RADIO NEWS ITEM WAS REFERRING TO THE ATTACK ON THE AMERICAN MENTIONED BY THE DRAMA CLUB MEMBERS.

4. COMMENT: THESE ARE THE FIRST REPORTED PHYSICAL ATTACKS ON AMERICANS SINCE THE SEPTEMBER 1972 INVASION OF UGANDA. COMING SO SOON AFTER THE LIFTING OF THE BAN ON TOURISM, IT CERTAINLY DOESN'T AUGUR WELL FOR THE FUTURE SAFETY OF AMERICAN TOURISTS IN UGANDA, ALTHOUGH THE TIMING OF THESE INCIDENTS MAY BE COINCIDENTAL. MRS. KIRONDE TOLD BETTS THAT THE INCIDENT IN WHICH SHE WAS INVOLVED WAS NOT A CASE OF A UGANDAN MISTAKING THE AMERICANS FOR UGANDANS; THE UGANDAN SOLDIER BEGAN TO ASSAULT THEM VERBALLY AS AMERICANS AS HE APPROACHED THEM. WE HAVE BEEN WONDERING HOW LONG IT WOULD BE BEFORE GENERAL AMIN'S CONSTANT VERBAL ABUSE OF AMERICANS WOULD BE TRANSLATED INTO PHYSICAL ATTACKS--ESPECIALLY BY HIS OFTEN DRUNKEN, ALWAYS UNDISCIPLINED TROOPS. WOULD APPEAR THAT IT HAS NOW BEGUN.

KEELEY

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